

JENISON HISTORY

November 2014

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www.jenisonhistory.org

JENISON HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 664
Jenison, Michigan 49429
TELEPHONE
(616) 457-4398

CARL MOODY

**TRANSCRIPT COPIED BY VIRGINIA TIMMER FROM A HANDWRITTEN
ACCOUNT DATED NOVEMBER 5, 1954**

Wife gives "This is your Life" birthday card party for husband!

On November 5th [1954], Carl Moody of Jenison was 75 years old and his wife gave a surprise birthday party "This is your life".

Carl Moody was born November 5, 1879 -- the youngest of five children -- 2 brothers, Guy and Louis D. and 2 sisters, Neva and Angie.

Carl went to school across the road from where he now lives [District #6 School on Cottonwood, just off Baldwin]. Herm Bouma of Grandville was a school mate.

In 1898, at the age of 19, he went to work on the Grand River when they were putting in the spiles to narrow the river so large boats could navigate from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids. Carl and Chester Leavenworth of Jenison are the only ones left of the "River Gang" as they were called.

In 1900, Carl learned the wholesale butcher trade from George Scribner of Grandville.

In 1902, he played baseball on the Grandville and Jenison ball teams called G & J. Carl, Herm Bouma of Grandville and Earl Comstock of Muskegon are the only ones living that played on that team.

In 1904, he went to work for R.A. Caldwell of Grandville who was a wholesale butcher at that time.

March of 1905 was the first flood in Grandville and Carl wore hip boots to carry Marion, Nita and Alice Caldwell from their house to high land.

In 1906, he came back home to go in business for himself as a wholesale butcher. He had saved enough money to buy a good team and wagon. His mother was more than pleased when he said,

(Continued Page 2)

Our mission is to learn about Jenison history, obtain artifacts relating to its history, and maintain the Jenison Historical Museum as a place to share and display our heritage.

Jenison Museum Souvenir's Available now at the Museum



2014 Jenison's Mill
Souvenir Ornament

2012 Jenison Museum
Souvenir Ornament



Prices:

New design \$15 each

Previous design \$12 each

Purchase one of each for \$25

(Order form available on web site)



(CON'T)

"Mother, I've come home to stay and go in business for myself and take care of you" -- which he did.

In 1910, he built the home he now lives in. About that time, a friend Charley Woolston of Jenison, a Veterinarian, bought a Reo automobile -- one of the first automobiles around here. Carl, being quite a mechanic, perceived the idea (while working a lot on his friends car) of putting up a garage which he did. Max Cobb of Grandville was one of his many patrons. Con Becker of Grandville received his training of automobile repairing by working in the Moody's Garage.

In the meantime, Carl was very interested in horses. He bought some Western horses, broke them, and later sold them. He also had fancy racing horses which Herm Bouma of Grandville drove for him at several fairs and sometimes won. One was named "Lady Beauford".

He also liked the river, so well that he bought a launch and used it to go from Jenison to Wealthy Street Dock in Grand Rapids, tie up the launch and go to a show and return late at night -- not alone of course.

On March 17, 1912, his father, Charles L. Moody, passed away at age 79.

In 1913, he bought his first automobile -- a 1911 Ford Roadster, and he was nicknamed Barney Oldfield [see footnote 1] by Al Harper.

In November, 1914; he went deer hunting for the first time. The hunting group consisted of Tom Leach of Grandville, Pete Kort of Jenison and Carl. They went to Big Bay in the Upper Peninsula. It was the last year you were allowed to shoot two bucks. Carl got his and had one of the heads mounted - a 12 pointer - which is still hanging in his home. Incidentally, Pete Kort and Carl are all that is left of that hunting party.

March 2, 1917, his sister, Neva Shoemake passed away at age 44.

December 8, 1918, his mother, Lucy J. Moody, passed away at age 82.

On January 7, 1919, he married Lillie Scribner who is still very much alive [as of the date this party occurred] They spent the month of January, 1921 on a belated honeymoon in Florida and had their first ride on an airplane at Daytona Beach.

In 1920, Orson Locke started working for Standard Oil Co., Grand Rapids and he bought his first truck from Carl.

In 1923, he went to work for the Universal Car and Service Company in Grand Rapids selling Ford cars, then he and Clyde Scribner operated the Scribner and Moody Garage in Grand Rapids selling new and used Fords.

Later Elmer Jewell of Grandville urged him to go in the rabbit business which he did. He bought 10 does and 2 bucks. At one time, he had 1100 rabbits, but the Depression came along and the Raisin Brook Rabbit Company, to whom he sold the rabbits, went into bankruptcy so Carl went out of the rabbit business.

He then went back to the wholesale butcher business and he was a great hand to mix pleasure with business so he always enjoyed his work.

January 2, 1942, his brother, Louis D. Moody, passed away at age 79.

November, 1945, he went hunting at the cabin he now has and loves to go mushrooming, fishing, blackberrying and hunting which he can do from his cabin.

November 20, 1949 his brother Guy C. Moody passed away at age 83. He had one sister left - Mrs. Angie Telgenhof of Grandville who is 77. He is at his home in Jenison getting ready for this years deer hunting and, by the way, he has a permit for a doe.

The D.R. Edgerlys are going to be their company during the hunting season. He says he wants to hunt as long as he lives, even if he has to use a cane.

The conclusion of "this is Your Life" birthday party is that the only ones left in this family by the name of Moody are Carl W. Moody, Jenison, age 75; Arthur B. Moody, Grandville, age 61; Morris Moody of Lansing, age 55 and Billy Moody of Lansing, age 13.

At this birthday party, there were three 75 year olds - Max R. Cobb, Grandville; Chester Leavenworth, Jenison; and Carl W. Moody of Jenison

He received 41 birthday cards. Those present at the party were Mr. and Mrs. Chester Leavenworth, Mrs. Mary Lowing, Mr and Mrs. D. Edgerly all of Jenison and Mr. and Mrs. Max P. Cobb, Grandville

[copied by Virginia Timmer from a hand (pencil) written account of the party]

Editors Update: Carl died in 1973 at the age of 93 years old. Lillie died in 1974 at approx 88 years old.

Footnote:

[1] from Wikipedia: **Berna Eli "Barney" Oldfield** (January 29, 1878 – October 4, 1946) was an American **automobile** racer and pioneer. He was the first man to drive a car at 60 miles per hour (96 km/h) on an oval.^[1] His accomplishments led to the expression "Who do you think you are? Barney Oldfield?"

Here's wishing you
and your families
Peace and Joy
during the
upcoming Holidays
and into the New
Year!!

December 2014 January 2015

Christmas at the Museum

A Victorian Christmas will be yours for the discovery beginning with the Open house on December 6 from 1 to 4 PM and the decorations remain up for one more Open house on January 10 from 2 to 4 PM.

We have had several additions to the museum this year, most recently a doll will be under the tree that is circa 1890-1910.



NOTE to MEMBERS:

November meeting includes elections, we have 4 board members up for re-election.

And still a few open positions. Help us steer the Association into 2015.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Considering Membership in JHA?

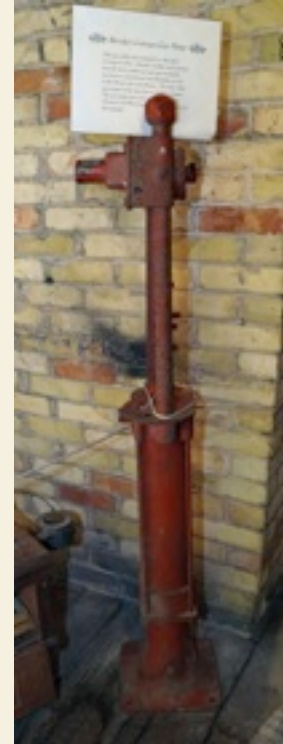
If you are not a dues paying member, please consider joining to help support the Association. Dues are a bargain at only \$10 per year, you will receive monthly updates to the happenings of the Association. Contact the JHA at info@jenisonhistory.org or call the museum at 616-457-4398. We look forward to seeing you,

Web Site:

Keep up to date by stopping by our website for a list of the our meeting and Open House dates and times by visiting (www.jenisonhistory.org)

Restoration Fund

Stop by and see the wonderful restoration of the Garfield print, made possible by the generous donations of a few of our members.



Gas Pump from the Moody Garage. Stop by the museum during Christmas Open House on December 6 and you will find this treasure in the attic.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Museum Cleaning: This is a big job, as you can well imagine, that needs constant attention in order to have the museum look it's best during the open houses. Contact any board member if you can lend a few hours.

Newsletter: Interested in helping publish? Research articles?

Tour Guides: The school tours are a great way of teaching the children about our history and is such a rewarding experience. You won't regret being a part of this experience for our local children.

Joyce Klawiter would love to hear from you.

And the list goes on...

Monthly Open Houses, Theme's for Open Houses, Inventory, Museum Maintenance, board trustee.

You can come to a monthly meeting or reach out to any board member if you would like to volunteer in any particular area.



For Sale at the Museum

Jenison Museum Note Pads	\$ 1.50
Stationary with Envelopes	\$ 2.00
Book: Bend in the River	\$10.00
Book: At the Bend	\$ 4.00
Mill Print (unframed)	\$10.00
Jenison at the Bend CD	\$10.00
Historical Prints:	
Large	\$10.00
Small	\$ 7.50
Pencils (neon colors or wood)	\$.25
Souvenir Ornament: 2014	\$15.00
Souvenir Ornament: 2012	\$12.00

Available during any open house, or call the Museum at 457-4398

JHA TRUSTEE'S

Chair/Membership

Liz Timmer (16)
457-3708

Vice Chair/Curator

Ken Williams (14)
772.6523

Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (14)
896-1447

Social Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (16)
457-1193

Recording Secretary

Linda Droog (15)
457-3016

Tours/Co-Archivist

Joyce Klawiter
457-9018

Co-Archivist

Barb Semeyn (14)
457-9343

Maintenance/Historian

Mike Timmer (16)
531-1218

Trustee

Yvonne Williams (14)
772-6523
Gene Kort (16)
534-6769

Township Rep

Ron Villerius

(##) = year of re-election to the board

Contact Information: Members may contact the board at the above phone numbers or leave a message at 457-4398 or info@jenisonhistory.org

Historical Association of Michigan

Find us on the registry at

www.hsmichigan.org



Jenison Historical Association
PO Box 664
Jenison, MI 49429

2014/(early) 2015 Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are all open to the public and are held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at 6:45 PM at the Georgetown Library, unless noted. No meeting in the month of December.

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Thursday, March 19, 2015

All meetings begin at 6:45 PM unless noted

Call to volunteer your time at the open houses

2014 Museum Open House Schedule

December 6, 2014 1-4 PM Christmas at the Jenison Museum
January 10, 2014 2-4 PM

2015 Open House Schedule not finalized, the web site will be updated.

ALSO: 1st Tuesday of the month April thru November -
10 AM - Noon